

Teachers' Associations.

ELGIN—At the late session of the Elgin Teachers' Association held at S. Thomas, after a lengthy and warm discussion on the subject of uniform promotion examinations in the schools of the County of Elgin, it was moved by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Littlejohn, that this Association favor a system of uniform promotion examination papers for the county, and that a committee be elected to mature some scheme for conducting such examination, and if practicable to hold the examination next March or April. A representative was elected by each municipality in the county to form said committee as follows: Messrs. W. Atkin, I. P. S., Conover; E. Higley, Aldborough Township; J. Eely, Southwold; Peat, Dunwich; Cheeseman, Yarmouth; Burdick, Milahide; Orton, S. Dorchester. The Association elected the following officers for the ensuing year:—President, E. R. Gunn, B. A., Vienna H. S.; Vice President, Thos. Hammon I, Aylmer; Corresponding Secretary, Miss. H. Robinson; Treasurer and Librarian, Thos. Leitch, St. Thomas C. I.; Executive Committee—Messrs. W. Atkin, I. P. S., J. Orton, J. W. Eely, E. Higley, W. Miller, B. A., Misses Sutherland, Murray, Lane, Arnold and Drake.

NORTHUMBERLAND—The annual meeting of the Teachers' Association was held in the Collegiate Institute, Cobourg, on 17th and 18th October. A large number of members attended from all parts of the county. The following is a synopsis of the proceedings, which were interesting throughout.

Friday.—The President, D. Robertson, in the chair. After routine business, Mr. Dixon introduced the subject "Spelling-defects and their Remedies." He described his own method of teaching spelling, in which he attaches special importance to written exercises. Dr. Hamilton of Port Hope pointed out the advantages of the phonic alphabet. Speakers who followed admitted the simplicity of the method, but thought its introduction would greatly detract from the value of etymological study. "Mental Arithmetic" was introduced by Mr. C. A. Lapp. The general opinion was that greater attention should be given to this important exercise. Mr. G. B. Ward, M. A., Brighton, furnished a valuable paper on "School Ethics." Rev. Dr. Burwash gave a most excellent address on "The Teacher's Self-culture, how best attained." The speaker clearly showed that a teacher even in elementary work, may attain true culture, as well as by a special course of collateral reading. These points were elaborated in a masterly manner.

Saturday.—The Committee on Uniform Promotion Examinations having reported, it was decided, after a short discussion, to rescind all resolutions in force bearing on the question. This leaves promotions in the hands of the teacher. The new programme of subjects for teachers was explained by D. C. McHenry, M. A., and discussed by the convention. The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, D. C. McHenry, M. A.; Vice-President, H. F. McDiarmid; Sec.-Treas., C. A. Lapp, other members of the Executive, Messrs. Scarlett, Ellis, Ash, Gould, and Orr. "Text-books, their use and abuse," was introduced by Mr. W. S. Ellis, B. A., B. Sc. A short discussion on "Importance of Thoroughness in Primary Classes," was opened by Mr. McDiarmid. Next meeting to be held in Cobourg in September or October, if the time can be so arranged. Details relating to Township Conventions were left with the Executive. Rev. Dr. Roy then gave an address on "Reading," in which he pointed out prevalent errors, and suggested excellent methods of teaching the subjects. After the usual complimentary resolutions, the Convention adjourned.

LAMBTON.—A union meeting of the East and West Lambton Teachers' Association was held in Sarnia on Thursday and Friday, 9th and 10th October. There was a large attendance of teachers, and considerable interest was manifested in the proceedings. Dr. McLellan's presence and lectures during the afternoon of Thursday and the whole of Friday added largely to the success of the meeting. The forenoon lesson was opened at ten o'clock, C. A. Barnes, P. S. I., in the chair.

After routine business Mr. Barnes gave an address explaining the new regulations regarding Teachers' Associations.

At the conclusion of Mr. Barnes' address Mr. Sinclair, B. A., took up the subject of Elementary Physics. A discussion followed the introduction of this subject, after which a committee was appointed to nominate officers for the ensuing year, with instructions to report next day.

Afternoon Session.—The roll being called, Miss E. Austin explained her method of teaching primary arithmetic to junior pupils; her method of dealing with the subject was exemplified by illustrations with black-board. At the conclusion of Miss Austin's lesson it was moved by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Mr. White, that the thanks of this Association be tendered her for the very excellent lesson which she has given. Carried.

The holding of local associations at various places throughout the county was next considered, when it was moved by Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Holmes, that the matter be referred to a committee consisting of the two inspectors, the two high school masters, and one teacher from each township. Carried.

Mr. Woodworth next explained his plan of teaching geography. He would begin teaching this subject in the second class. A lively discussion followed relating to map drawing, definitions, etc.

Dr. McLellan proceeded to discuss grammar. He began by stating that he could not agree with the idea advanced by some that the English language was a grammarless tongue. He then went on to explain the benefits derived from the study of this subject and what he considered the best method of teaching it. He considered analysis very useful in developing reasoning power.

In the evening a lecture was delivered by Dr. McLellan in the Temperance Hall, subject, "Teacher and Parent in the work of Education." The hall was filled to its utmost capacity by teachers and citizens of the town, who listened with delight to the eloquent remarks of the lecturer as he contrasted the condition of affairs now with what they were twenty-five or thirty years ago. At the conclusion a vote of thanks was tendered Dr. McLellan for the very able lecture which he had given.

The meeting was opened on Friday with prayer by N. L. Holmes, after which the roll was called by the secretary.

The committee regarding local associations reported in favor of holding associations during the first half of next year at the following places: Florence, Watford, Forest, Petrolia, Sarnia, and S. S. No. 11, Sunbra. On motion of Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. White, the report was adopted.

Dr. McLellan then answered several questions on Thursday's lesson in grammar, after which he proceeded to discuss "The Art of Questioning." The further consideration of this subject was adjourned till the afternoon, and Mr. D. N. Sinclair was called upon for his subject, "Writing." A general discussion followed the introduction of this subject, in which a number of teachers took part.

At the afternoon session Dr. McLellan renewed his address on the art of questioning. At the conclusion of this address the secretary read the report regarding nomination of officers, and on motion of T. White, seconded by Mr. McDonald, the following officers were appointed for the ensuing year, viz.:—John Brebner, President; C. Barnes, Vice-President; John Johnston, Secretary-Treasurer; W. Sinclair, B. A., W. Phillips, B. A., J. R. Brown, S. C. Woodworth, A. Wark, Executive Committee.

The President brought up the matter of uniform promotion examinations for East and West Lambton, and after a short discussion it was moved by Robert McWorter, seconded by J. J. Mathews, that uniform promotion examinations be held throughout the county. Carried.

On motion by Mr. White a vote of thanks was tendered to Dr. McLellan for the very able series of lectures which he had given.

The association then adjourned.

Literary Review.

MR. GEORGE ALFRED TOWNSEND is at work upon a new novel which will be entitled "Katy of Cotuiton."

PROF. DOWDEN is hard at work on his Life of Shelley, and has been wonderfully fortunate in getting hold of fresh materials from the most hopeless looking quarters.

PROF. JOWETT has nearly finished his translation of "The Politics of Aristotle."

JUSTIN MCCARTHY has prepared a volume of "Irish Lyrics" for publication in the *Parchment* series.

FIRST PRINCIPLES OF NATURAL PHILOSOPHY. A text-book for Common Schools. By E. Roy M. Avery, Ph. D. Sheldon & Company, New York and Chicago.

This is a good work for primary classes in Natural Philosophy. It is a much simpler and briefer treatise than the Author's Elements of Natural Philosophy. Each subject is discussed from the standpoint of experiment, and yet such experiments do not require expensive apparatus. It will prove a good work in schools when there is not much time to devote to the subject.

The November number of the *Magazine of American History* contains a splendidly illustrated article on the "Unsuccessful Candidates for the Presidency of the Nation."

Geo. Routledge & Sons have recently published four volumes of their "One Syllable Historical Course," comprising the histories of France, Germany, England and the United States.

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL CIRCULAR OF THE ONTARIO BUSINESS COLLEGE, BELLEVILLE, ONT., Robinson and Johnson, Principals and Proprietors.

This little sheet is elegantly gotten up and contains much valuable information for the young men who wish to secure a good, practical education before entering the business world. It furnishes full information to the public, regarding the different branches of study taught in the College, the charges for tuition, the time it takes a student to complete a certain course, &c. Young men who purpose taking a course in a business college should write to Messrs. Robinson & Johnson, for their interesting catalogue.